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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

9 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Downing Committee - Discussion with Lyle Miller

1. Lyle came down this afternoon to talk about where we are going, or more specifically where we have not gone. He doesn't know what happened to his memorandum of a week or so ago and I told him I don't know where it is now. He said that John Waller had said it should be coordinated with the DDO and DDA, which only delayed it making the rounds; I said that I was responsible for that. He said that it was fine to talk about delay but he thought that the principles that he raised should be addressed and answered. I said that I was concerned that people were speaking in broad principle and that nothing was being done to take hold of the problem.

2. Lyle said that OLC is taking over the Review Staff registry. I said that we had been looking into some of the problems associated with this, such as manpower and extra space. I said that John Leader and Al Brody were trying to assemble some thoughts on this. He said OLC was taking this over and would be responsible for it; I said that John and Al had assembled our thoughts and would pass them to him and he could do with them as he wishes, but that these thoughts would reflect our experience and their recent inquiry.

3. Lyle is upset that nobody had done anything. He said that nine days had passed and that his recommendations had still not been acted on. He wants to take something over to Sprague to show him to demonstrate that we are cooperative. He pointed out that he had already delivered all of the Oswald material that had been cleared for release under FOIA and that Launie Ziebell was reported planning to provide additional material on the same subject as it is processed for release. I said that until the ground rules and security arrangements are completed it is very difficult to give him anything else

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that can be taken over. I asked Bob Young to tell us the status of the sanitization of our 1967 Castro assassination report for FOIA release. Lyle wanted something else as well.

4. Lyle talked about inventories and lists of reports given to the Warren Commission on the Kennedy assassination. I told him that I thought much of the material would be hard to identify. He interrupted to say that the Review Staff had a list of Warren Commission material. I said that I thought that there was also other material given to the various investigating bodies that might not be so readily identifiable. He asked me if I would create such an inventory for him. I replied that the only central record is in the Review Staff registry, subject to his control, and that I thought it appropriate that he have those people do it for him.

5. He asked about Martin Luther King material. I said that we had provided xerox copies of everything we have on this to OGC. I understood this to be part of a general inquiry and whoever has it in OGC might be in a position to provide it to him.

6. Lyle wanted to know if we could lay on briefings for Sprague. I said that I was prepared to go over with him and meet Sprague. John Waller had authorized me to do this. I would like to talk with Sprague to see how he intends to proceed and what lines of inquiry and interest he wishes to pursue. I said that I would undertake to describe generally how we are organized and the kinds of problems we could handle. As a result of this sort of exchange then we might be able to have people talk with Sprague about their respective files and problems. Lyle wanted an overview on Cuban operations. I said this probably could be arranged if Sprague felt it met his interest; Shackley is obviously the man to give it but we ought to have somebody indicate as to the direction of Sprague's interests.

7. Lyle said that he already had a preliminary meeting with Sprague. In essence that is what I would be doing. I agreed saying that he was speaking in broad principle and I wanted to consider how we do it and not just generally what we do.

8. Lyle asked what I thought my role was as the so-called inside man. I said that my role arose from the study group I was chairing concerning the Schweiker report. I expected that we would be responsible for seeing that substantive responses to requests were coordinated when brought forward. I said that Phil Fendig had been added to our working group, which already had DDO representation, in order to ensure DDO-wide responsibility.

9. Lyle said that he intended to form his own coordinating group which I added caused me no problem.

10. Lyle wants to do something--anything--soon. I have agreed to be available any time tomorrow to go up and meet Sprague.

11. I called Phil Fendig's office and asked what problems there would be in bringing Sprague and his research assistant out prior to security formalities to be completed to show them around and show them files so they can get an idea of the size of their problem. I also called Sid Stembridge who Lyle had indicated was discussing security matters with the Downing Committee. Sid said that he had had one introductory meeting only three hours after the people had moved into their space and that he was waiting the selection of a professional security officer.

12. For the moment that is all, except that Lyle has clearly declared his responsibility for providing the manpower and space and administration and attention to the handling of this problem, including the direction of the Review Staff registry.

S. D. Breckinridge